

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 14 and 15 are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 16 are currently being amended.

Claims 17 and 18 are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends, cancels and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending, canceling and adding the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3-6, 8-13 and 16-18 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claim 15. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of 'objected to' claim 15 (with amendments made to overcome the objection to that claim) and its intervening claim 14. Thus, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance based on the indications made in the Office Action regarding claim 15.

Claim Objections:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15 and 16 were objected to because of minor informalities noted on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. By way of this amendment and reply, claims, 1, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 16 have been amended in accordance with the helpful suggestions provided in the Office Action (whereby the features of claim 15 added to claim 1 are in accordance with the suggestions made in the Office Action).

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the final Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11-12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,332,170 to Ban; claims 4, 9 and 13

were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ban and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,071,030 to Hunter; and claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ban in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,019,851 to Kanazawa. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

With respect to presently pending independent claim 1, that claim has been amended to include the features of claims 14 and 15 (and to overcome the objections made to claims 1 and 15), and thus it is now in condition for allowance based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 15.

Claims 3-5 and 16 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and thus those claims are also now in condition for allowance.

Presently pending independent claim 6 and presently pending independent claim 11 have each been amended to include the features of 'objected to' claim 15 (but not its intervening claim 14, and rewritten based on the non-inclusion of the intervening claim 14), whereby presently pending independent claims 6 and 11 are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

Furthermore, as shown in Figure 3 of Ban, that reference discloses a printer in which printing jobs received from each terminal are separately stored as an "ordinary job" and a "manual feed job", and that the ordinary job is basically executed, and the manual feed job is executed only when a manual button 32 is pressed. A CPU 110 of the printer identifies the paper feed designation information of the received print jobs and sorts them out to an ordinary job and a manual feed job (See Figure 6, item #122 of Ban).

Therefore, in the printer of Ban, when a printing job is to be executed in the case where the first page to be printed is a tab paper sheet and the second and subsequent pages to be printed are normal paper sheets, it is necessary to execute this job as the ordinary job and the manual feed job at different timings. That is, in such a case, it is necessary to perform an input operation for executing a printing job on the first tab paper sheet and another input operation for executing the printing job on the second and subsequent pages of normal paper sheets, separately (i.e., perform input operations twice).

In contrast, in the present invention according to independent claims 6 and 11, when the printer receives a printing job, it is determined whether a page index of each page or a job

index of the printing job includes information on special printing, and temporarily suspends the printing job which includes the information on special printing in the page index or the job index before executing it at suitable timing. That is, in the present invention according to independent claims 6 and 11, it is possible to handle a printing job which includes printing on a tab paper sheet and on normal paper sheets as one job. Accordingly, it is unnecessary to perform input operations twice for performing two types of printing included in one printing job, as required in the device of Ban.

Therefore, presently pending independent claims 6 and 11 are not anticipated by Ban.

With respect to dependent claims 8-10, 12, 13, 17 and 18, those claims depend either directly or indirectly from either claim 6 or claim 11, whereby none of the other cited art of record rectifies the deficiencies of Ban.

Accordingly, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claims:

New claims 17 and 18 have been added, whereby those claims correspond to the features of claim 16, but where those new claims depend from claims 6 and 11, respectively. In Ban, as shown in Figure 3 of that reference, a printer in which printing jobs received from each terminal are separately stored as an "ordinary job" and a "manual feed job", and that the ordinary job is basically executed, and the manual feed job is executed only when a manual button 32 is pressed. This is in contrast to the features recited in new claims 17 and 18.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated,

otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 20, 2006

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